

HELLO
Welcome to Royal Oak

A GUIDE
FOR NEW
RESIDENTS



1921



2021

WELCOME HOME!

Welcome to Royal Oak. We're happy to call you neighbor!

Royal Oak (pop. 59,006) is a dynamic city full of opportunity and excitement. Our 12-square miles offer all the quality-of-life amenities one would expect from a big city, while retaining the comforts of a small town.

We hope you find this new resident packet useful as you settle in to our community.



STOP IN & SAY HELLO!

Stop by City Hall at 203 S. Troy St and a friendly staff member can provide you with any information you need.

You'll find many forms are available online at romi.gov/doitonline.

If you'd prefer to call us, you can do that, too. Our number is

248-246-3000

CITY COMMISSION

CITY COMMISSION VISION STATEMENT

To be a dynamic balance of progressive vision and traditional values offering an inviting, premier and diverse community for all.

Michael Fournier, mayor

Sharlan Douglas, city commissioner

Kyle DuBuc, city commissioner

Monica Hunt, city commissioner

Brandon Kolo, city commissioner

Melanie Macey, city commissioner

Patricia Paruch, mayor pro tem

The city commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays in every month with the exception of December in 2021.

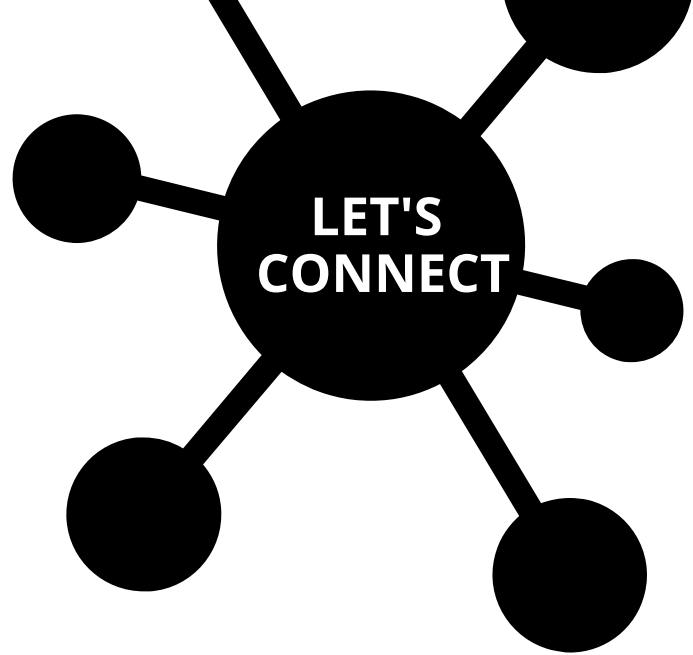
Agendas are available prior to the meetings at romi.gov/agenda.

Minutes are available following approval.



City commission meetings are available to the public on WROK WOW Ch 10 | or live stream at romi.gov/livestream.

WHO DO I CONTACT?



CITY MANAGER

Paul J. Brake was appointed by the city commission and is the city's chief administrative officer. The city manager is responsible for implementing city policy as determined by the city commission, providing day-to-day operations and leadership for the various city departments, and representing the city to the community and other agencies and groups.

The city manager's office accepts and forwards messages for the mayor of Royal Oak, who is elected to the part-time position by the majority of registered voters of Royal Oak.

Email: citymanager@romi.gov
ph: 248-246-3200

CITY COMMUNICATION

The ways the city communicates with residents are:

Insight, the city's official newsletter, is published four times a year and mailed to every address within the city limits.

romi.gov is the city's official website.

romi.gov/notifyme allows residents to sign up for emails/text messages on everything from construction updates to the city's weekly eBlast and much more.



Royal Oak City Hall
facebook.com/rocityhall

Royal Oak Public Library
facebook.com/royaloaklibrary

Royal Oak Parks & Recreation
facebook.com/ROParksandRec

Downtown Royal Oak
facebook.com/downtownroyaloak

Oakland County
facebook.com/OakGov



[@CityofRoyalOak](https://twitter.com/CityofRoyalOak)



[@RoyalOakCityHall](https://instagram.com/RoyalOakCityHall)

EMERGENCY ALERTS

RECEIVE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Knowing what to do during and after an emergency improves your odds of a positive outcome. CivicReady notifications alert you via email, text messages and phone calls to local threats and rapidly changing situations.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

It's easy! Go to **romi.gov/civicready** to get warnings and information on:

- Emergency Alerts
- Blizzard Warnings
- Severe Storm Warnings
- Tornado Warnings
- Flood Warnings
- Local Threats

CIVICREADY®

Powered by Regroup

WHEN A SNOW EMERGENCY IS IN EFFECT

Individuals signed up for CivicReady will be alerted when snow emergency is in effect. All vehicles on residential streets are to be removed during a snow emergency or risk being ticketed and/or towed. Vehicles should remain off the streets until plow trucks have gone through the area. Once a snow emergency is called and plowing begins, it takes approximately 24 - 36 hours to plow all city streets, parking lots, dead-ends and turnarounds with crews working 12 hour shifts until the process is complete.

Go to **romi.gov/snow** to learn more and follow the progress of the plows with our tracking map.

SHOVEL IT FORWARD

Join the Shovel It Forward movement and keep our sidewalks free of snow and ice. When sidewalks are clear, we increase the safety and mobility of everyone – from those with disabilities to your favorite letter carrier.

Learn what you can do to be a good neighbor at **romi.gov/shovelitforward**.

CITY TAXES

TAX RATES

Property taxes, special assessments and license fees are collected by the City Treasurer.

Taxing Authorities

Assessments are utilized with the millage rates adopted by the various taxing authorities to generate tax revenues, which include:

- Oakland County Parks & Recreation
- Zoological Authority
- Art Institute Authority
- Public Transportation Authority
- Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
- Local School District
- Oakland Community College
- Oakland Schools ISD

Learn more at romi.gov/assessing.



TAX BILL DUE DATES

Summer Tax Bill

Your summer tax bill is due and payable from July 1 through July 31 without penalty. Beginning August 1, interest is added at the rate of 1/2 of 1 percent per month. After February 28 (leap year, 29), all delinquent taxes must be paid to the Oakland County Treasurer with additional interest and penalties. If July 31 falls on Saturday or Sunday, the due date is extended to the next business day.

This bill may be paid in two installments, provided half of the total is paid on or before July 31. The second half payment is payable on or before October 31.

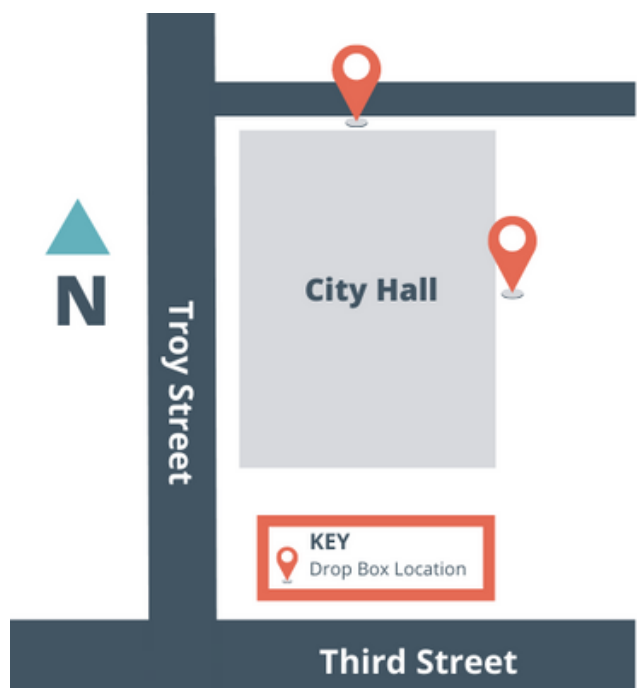
Winter Tax Bill

Your winter tax bill is due and payable from December 1 through February 14 without penalty. A 3 percent penalty is added after February 14. Beginning March 1, all delinquent taxes must be paid to the Oakland County Treasurer with additional interest and penalties.

This bill is not payable in installments.

DROP BOX LOCATIONS

For your convenience drop boxes are located near City Hall, 203 S Troy Street, at the east entrance and on the driveway on the north side of the building.



CITY BUDGET

VISION-BASED BUDGETING GUIDES SPENDING

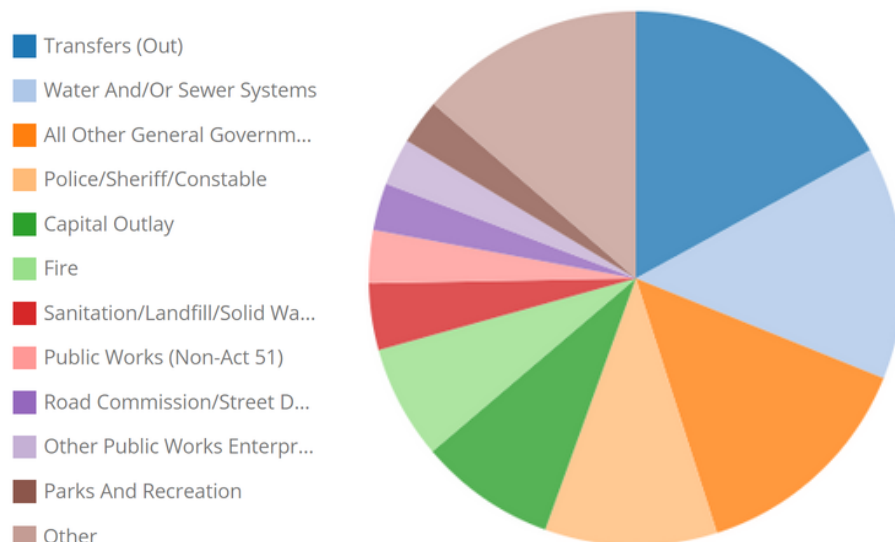
The budget allocates the city's limited financial resources to provide services based on community and organizational priorities. The city's budget preparation process begins in January with a strategic plan based on the community's vision and culminates with budget adoption by the city commission in June.

The budget period is the city's fiscal year, which begins July 1 and ends on June 30. View budget documents at romi.gov/budget.



HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT

The MI Community Financial Dashboard is provided by the Michigan Department of Treasury using data collected off the Annual Financial Report (F65) submitted by local units of government. View Royal Oak's Community Financial Dashboard at romi.gov/dashboard.

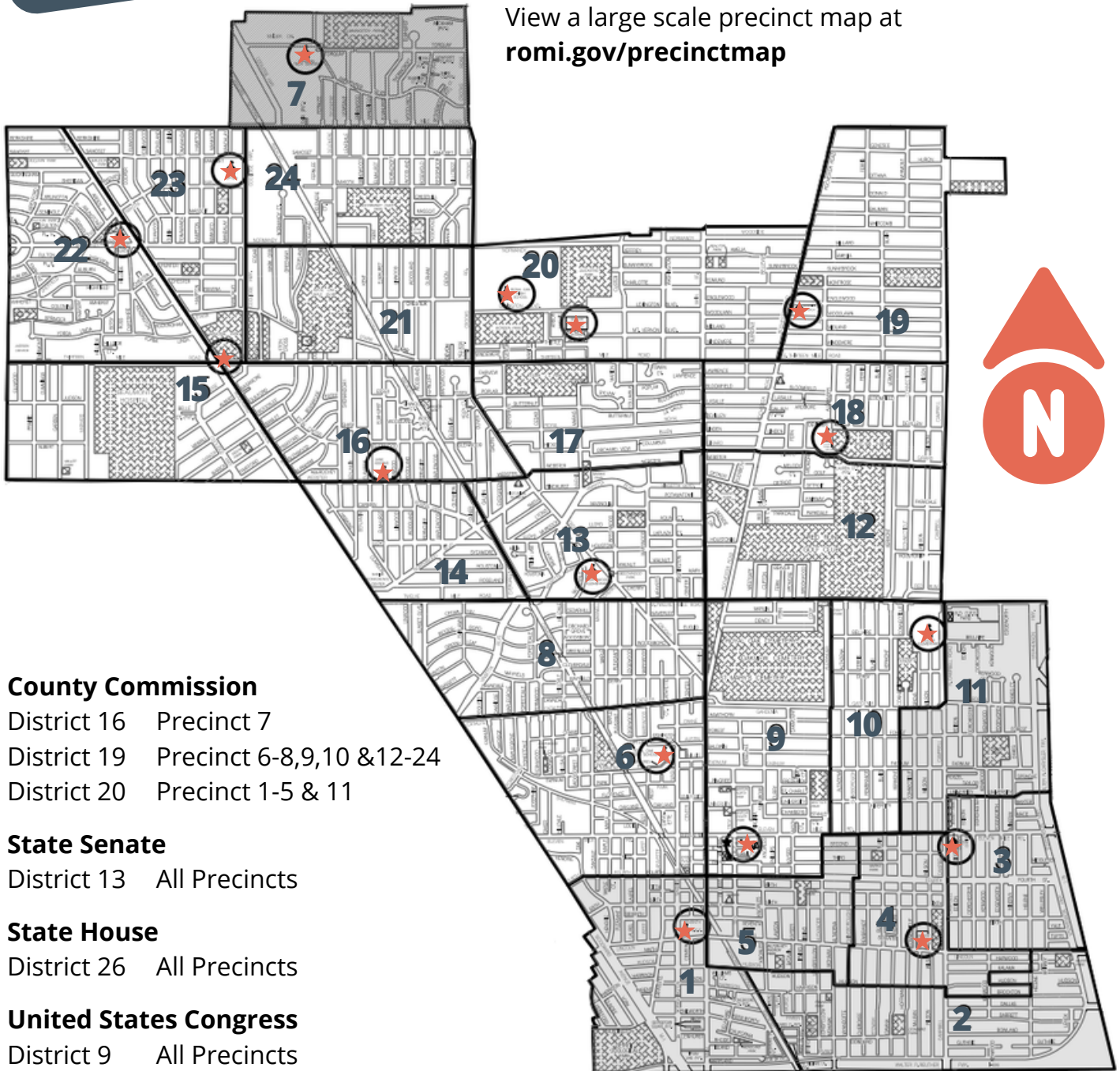


ELECTIONS & VOTING

VOTING PRECINCTS & POLLING PLACES

Find addresses for polling places by precinct at romi.gov/precinct.

View a large scale precinct map at romi.gov/precinctmap



County Commission

District 16 Precinct 7

District 19 Precinct 6-8,9,10 &12-24

District 20 Precinct 1-5 & 11

State Senate

District 13 All Precincts

State House

District 26 All Precincts

United States Congress

District 9 All Precincts

VOTER INFORMATION

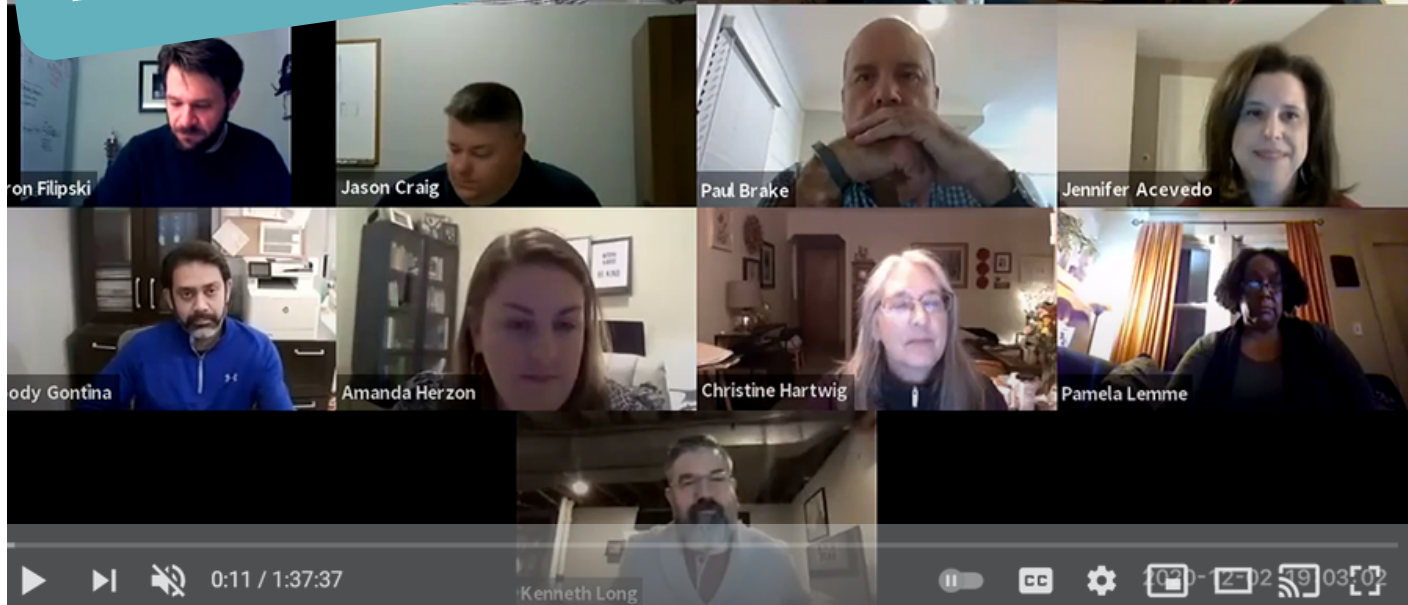
The mayor and three at-large commission seats are chosen by voters in a municipal election. Municipal elections occur in years ending with an odd number, such as 2021.

Information on voting registration, finding your polling place, view sample ballots and more can be found at romi.gov/vote.

Registered voters can request an absentee ballot without providing a reason. To request an absentee ballot or learn more, go to romi.gov/absentee-vote.



GET INVOLVED



BE A PART OF YOUR HOMETOWN

"Whatever you are, be a good one." - *Abraham Lincoln*

There are many ways to get involved and be a good citizen. Here are just a few.

Boards and Committees

Have a voice in local government in an advisory capacity by volunteering to be a part of a city board, committee or commission.

(romi.gov/boardsandcomittees)

Inter Club Council

This coalition of volunteer and professional service groups meet

TIP: Not sure which board or committee is a good fit for you? You can watch past meetings on the WROC Cable TV YouTube Channel.

through a forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

(romi.gov/interclub)

Neighborhood Associations

Residents and/or business owners who work together with neighbors and city officials for changes and improvements to their home and neighborhood.

(romi.gov/neighborhoods)

Citizens Police Academy

The purpose of this program is to allow residents to become familiar with their police department through classroom instruction and practical, hands on experience.

(romi.gov/academy)

**GET
INVOLVED
(SOME MORE!)**



Martin Luther King Service Day

Each year, the communities of Royal Oak and Berkley recognize the third Monday in January as “a day on, not a day off” and host a joint event with collaborative community projects.

(romi.gov/mlk)

Aging-in-Place Work Groups

In a series of meetings work groups review research results, learn what services and programs already exist and create short- and long- term solutions to meet the needs of our aging population.

(romi.gov/agefriendly)

Adopt a Park

This program recognizes groups of individuals from the community that remove debris and litter from a specific "adopted" park at least twice per year. (romi.gov/adoptapark)



Citizens Police Academy



Martin Luther King Service Day



Aging-in-Place Work Groups

LIFE NOW PLAYING

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO

Parks and More Parks

Explore more than 50 parks. Find out which parks have pickleball, disc golf, tennis courts, ball fields picnic shelters, splash pads, climbing walls and great playscapes. (romi.gov/parks)

Farmers Market

Year round, the market hosts the best farmers in the region on Saturdays and an Antiques & Collectibles treasure hunt on Sundays. (romi.gov/farmersmarket)

Royal Oak Golf Course

The nine-hole municipal course features a pro shop and individual or group instruction by a golf pro. (romi.gov/golf)

Royal Oak Cemetery

Designated a Michigan Historical Site in 1996, residents will recognize many historical names of those who made the six-acre triangle their final resting place. (romi.gov/cemetery)

Memorial Day Parade

For a century, Royal Oak has honored its fallen with a parade down Main Street. (romi.gov/parade)

Historical Museums

Learn about the city's 100-year history at the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum (1411 W Webster) or the Orson Star House Museum (3123 N Main).



LET US
ENTERTAIN
YOU

Royal Oak is widely known for its eclectic blend of shops, restaurants, sidewalk cafes, events, entertainment landmarks and wild animals.





SENIOR RESOURCES

Insight

Inside every of issue of *Insight* there are multiple pages of information written especially for adults 65 and older. Look for your free copy in the mail or view it online at romi.gov/insight.

Senior Times Newsletter

Go to romi.gov/seniors to subscribe to the digital Senior Times Newsletter and get information on classes, trips, events and more.

Royal Oak Seniors Resource Center

Stop by the Senior Resource Center for brochures from businesses with products and services for older adults. If you are a business owner and would like to display your brochures at the Resource Center, please call (248) 246-3900 for an application form. The fees to display brochures are \$10 monthly or \$100 yearly.

Medical Equipment Loan Closet

The senior center Senior Center has walkers, wheelchairs, bath stools and such available for loan. There is no charge to borrow an item, keep them as long as necessary and return clean. Clean, working durable medical equipment donations are also accepted. Call (248) 246-3900 prior to bringing in equipment.

Billiards

Three pool tables are located in the game room at the Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center. Pool may be played Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. There is a 50¢ daily charge or \$3.00 monthly fee for use of the tables. Drop-in Pool Tournaments are held monthly.

Tim's Kitchen

Enjoy meals, \$3.50, prepared from scratch in the Mahany/Meininger Center kitchen Monday - Friday. Chef Erin Koch's creations are nutritious, filling, and delicious! Call for monthly menus. Call (248) 246-3900, at least one day in advance to reserve a meal or learn more. Carry-outs available.

Oakland Meals on Wheels

Call Oakland Meals on Wheels at (248) 689-0001 for hot meals delivered daily. The menu for homebound meals differs from the meals served at the Senior Center.

Transportation

This service provided by the City of Royal Oak promotes independence for residents aged 60 or older, and adults who are permanently handicapped. Door-to-door service is available to those with mobility problems who need to be personally escorted to the buses. The driver will assist with bags of groceries. Call (248) 246-3914 between the hours of 9:30 am - 12:30 pm to arrange your transportation needs. Call up to two weeks before your appointment so that we may assure you of a ride. All buses are equipped with lifts for the handicapped. Prepaid tickets are available: \$19 / 5 round-trip tickets and \$14 / 5 one-way tickets. The Royal Oak Transportation service is sponsored by the City of Royal Oak; funded by Beaumont Health, SMART Municipal and Community Credit Funds, and rider donations.



Family Pride

Royal Oak celebrates Pride Month in June with a roundup of fun activities for LGBTQ families and friends. (romi.gov/familypride)

Recreation Programs

Royal Oak offers youth activity and enrichment programs year round. (royaloakrec.com)

Programs at the Library

No school? No problem! It's a great time to discover the digital collections for kids at the library. (ropl.org)

Chase the Chief

Chase Chief Corrigan O'Donohue at the Run with the Police 5k typically held in June.

Firefighters Open House

Every October, enjoy family fun at Royal Oak Fire Station #1. The open house features doughnuts,

cider, a bounce house, candy drop, stove fire demonstrations, Sparky the Firehouse Dog, a chance to spray a real fire hose and more.

Adventure Mini Golf

The mountain-style mini golf course is fun for the whole family. (royaloakgolfcenter.com)

Grand Slam Baseball Training Center

It's been Metro Detroit's premier batting cage facility since 1982. (grandslamroyaloak.com)

MoGo

The non-profit bike share program, provides a service that promotes health, safety, and connectivity. Pick up a bike at one of six Royal Oak stations and connect to places in Detroit and southern Oakland County. (mogodetroit.org)



WE LOVE TREES

STATE OF THE TREES

Trees yield a considerable number of benefits to a community. These benefits justify the costs of creating, promoting and maintaining the urban forest. The environmental benefits include reduced stormwater runoff, shade and cooling, air and water pollutant mitigation, carbon storage and biodiversity. The economic benefits include improved walkability, increased patronage of businesses, increased property values and decreased energy spending. The societal benefits include improved mental and physical health, improved quality of life, environmental justice and enhanced community character.

Tree City USA

Our commitment to tree planting and preservation has earned the City of Royal Oak the National Arbor Day Foundation distinction of "Tree City USA" every year since 1976.

City Tree Evaluation

All city trees (trees that exist between the sidewalk and street) are evaluated by a city certified arborist. Please call the DPS at (248) 246-3300 to have a work order generated for tree(s) on city property to be evaluated for trimming and/or removal. Trimming or replacement of city trees is done at no cost to property owners.

Dutch Elm Disease Tree

The Parks & Forestry division surveys the city each year for trees with Dutch Elm Disease (both on city and private property by ordinance) for possible removal. Unfortunately, the cost of Dutch Elm disease tree(s) removal on private property is the homeowners responsibility. Certified letters will be sent to homeowners to explain the process.

TIP: The city offers a tree planting program every spring. Learn more at romi.gov/trees.

Cummingston Park and Tenhave Woods are nature preserves that are over 20 acres in size and are heavily wooded with lined trails. (romi.gov/parks)

RECYCLING & MORE

SOCRRA's Waste Wizard tool will let you know if an item can be recycled. (socrra.org)

WEEKLY SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING

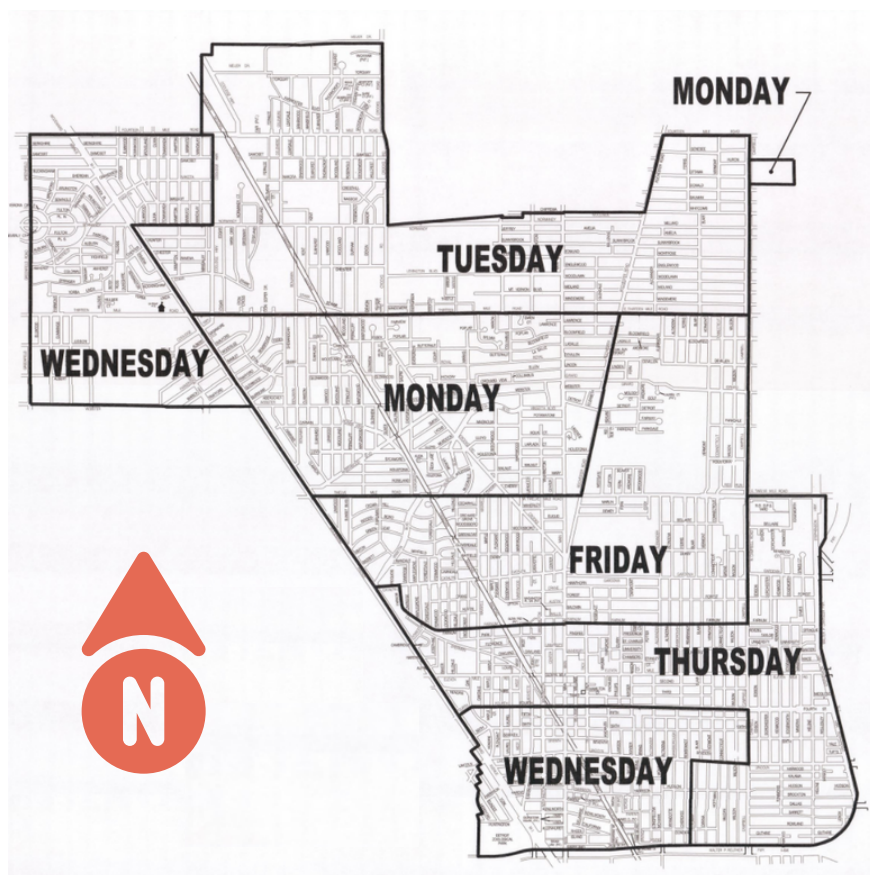
Collection & Bin Information

The City of Royal Oak provides weekly curbside pickup of recyclables on the same day your trash is collected. Please have your recyclable toter/bins to the curb by 7:00 a.m.

Recycling must be set out in either an 18-gallon Royal Oak/ SOCRRA bin or a 65-gallon toter. Residents are encouraged to use as many recycling bins/toters as necessary to accommodate their recyclables; there is no limit to how many recycling bins/toters residents may set out each week.

Schedule

Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste (when in season) collections occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please have all material out to the easement no later than 7:00 a.m. Place trash and recyclables on the easement (between the sidewalk and curb) and separate by 2 - 3 feet.



TIP: Guidelines for how to pack different types of refuse, including large items, and an enlarged collection schedule map can be found at romi.gov/refuse.



CITY BUILDINGS



City Hall

203 S Troy St
ph: 248-246-3000



Police Station

450 E. 11 Mile Road
ph: 248-246-3500



44th District Court

400 E 11 Mile Road
ph: 248-246-3600



Public Library

222 E 11 Mile Road
ph: 248-246-3700



Farmers Market

316 E 11 Mile Road
ph: 248-246-3276



Department of Public Service

1583 N Campbell Road
ph: 248-246-3300

CITY BUILDINGS



Fire Station #1

215 Sixth St
ph: 248-246-3800



Fire Station #2

3298 13 Mile Road
ph: 248-246-3840



Fire Station #3

3125 S Rochester Road
ph: 248-246-3830



Mahaney/Meininger Senior Center

3500 Marais Ave
ph: 248-246-3900



Salter Community Center

1545 E Lincoln
ph: 248-246-3180



Lindell Ice Arena

1403 Lexington Blvd.
ph: 248-246-3950

CITY BUILDINGS



Royal Oak Golf Course

3417 Don Soper Drive
ph: 248-544-0019



Orson Starr House Museum

3123 N Main
ph: 248-588-0170



Historical Society Museum

1411 W Webster Road
ph: (248) 439-1501



Animal Shelter

1515 N Edgeworth Ave,
ph: 248-548-3058

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY
TO US!**

Royal Oak is 100!
Learn more about
our city's history at
romi.gov/100



PUBLIC SAFETY

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

Police non-emergency: 248-246-3500

Fire non-emergency: 248-246-3800

CPR PROGRAMS

The Royal Oak Fire Department has been actively involved with CPR education for the community for decades. The department is pleased to offer a variety of classes for its citizens of all ages. Learn more at romi.gov/cpr.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN SYSTEM

When the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning or a Severe Thunderstorm with damaging winds at or greater than 70 mph for Royal Oak, the sirens are activated by the Oakland County Homeland Security Division.

When sirens are activated a steady three minute tone indicates a tornado has been sighted or strongly indicated on radar and/or a severe thunderstorm with 70 mph winds or greater is in the area. Seek shelter immediately and listen to radio or television for more information, if it is safe to do so. Do not call police, fire departments or news media.

Oakland County Homeland Security test the Outdoor Warning Siren system on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM.

MEET ROMI

Some dogs look like their owners or famous people. Some dogs look like other animals, such as a bear cub or a wolf. Romi, our city mascot, is a dog that looks like a city!

Learn more at romi.gov/romi.





Royal Oak

Life Now Playing